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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

HOSPITAL INFECTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.—In an article in the *British Medical Journal*, J. Edward Squire, M.D., gives the result of inquiries as to the prevalence of infection amongst the medical staffs and nurses of special hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis. Of twenty-seven residents who replied to his inquiries, only four had suffered from the disease. Of these, two were victims before their residence in hospital, one had had a local infection of the hand acquired at a post mortem, and another had so-called tubercular warts on one hand which had been removed; all four were alive and well at the time of writing. He concludes that the risk of infection is little, if at all, greater than in a general hospital. The risk of tuberculous infection, even in a hospital for consumptives, appears to constitute a very slight danger, whether to medical men or nurses.

A STEP TOWARDS THE CURE OF CANCER.—*The New York Medical Journal* says: In all professions the men who have died at their post, in the conscientious and ardent pursuit of a great idea, are those who furnish the greatest inspiration. Dr. Hodenpyl, whose untimely death, from pneumonia, at the age of forty-six, occurred on May 5th, was known as one of the ablest pathologists of New York, and the work into which he had thrown all his energy and effort for the last two years was one which will perhaps enable his successors to work out a cure for cancer. He had found that a number of cancerous patients who were considered beyond operative help were relieved, at least temporarily, from all symptoms, by the injection of the ascitic fluid obtained by tapping a patient who was one of those rare ones that sometimes recover, of themselves, from extensive carcinoma.

It is premature at this time to predict that a cancer cure has been discovered; but it is probable that one of the greatest steps forward has been taken, and though the obtaining of antiserum in appreciable quantities may be the work of his successors, the glory of having indicated the new line of work will be associated with Dr. Hodenpyl's memory.

NEW FACTS ON CANCER.—*McClure's Magazine* for May has an

article, by Burton J. Hendrick, on this subject, a continuation of one published several months ago. After outlining Dr. Hodenpyl's experiments with the serum treatment, referred to in the paragraph above, he gives these general conclusions:

"And the peculiarity of cancer is that it apparently assails our most valuable lives. Unlike most of the contagious diseases, it does not flourish in filthy and noisome back alleys, but seeks the sunlight and the homes of the industrious, the happy, the prosperous. In the East Side tenement section of New York, in the East End of London, it finds fewer victims than in the more sanitary parts of both cities. According to the figures of the statisticians, viciousness and crime, while they strongly induce other deadly diseases, apparently offer a mysterious immunity to cancer. Thus, among men, few drunkards are cancerous, and, among women, few prostitutes. In workhouses, jails, and lunatic asylums cancer is likewise only exceptionally found. Women are the greatest sufferers; according to the highest statistics, one in every eight, above the age of thirty-five, dies from this disease; married women succumb more frequently than unmarried, and fertile women more frequently than barren. These are the facts that give an absorbing interest to Dr. Hodenpyl's important experiments."

NUTRIENT SUPPOSITORIES.—*The Interstate Medical Journal*, quoting from a German contemporary, says: The comparative uselessness of nutritive enemata has led Boas to suggest replacing them by nutritive suppositories, consisting of crystallized egg albumin, dextrin, salt and cocoa-butter. If these suppositories are made two and a half inches long and half an inch in diameter, they will contain a little over 46 calories. Four or five of these suppositories can readily be introduced daily, so that the patient receives some 230 calories. This, of course, does not represent a sufficient nourishment, but it is greatly superior to anything that can be attained by means of nutritive enemata. In addition, the necessary water must be supplied by means of two saline enemas daily of a pint each. The suppositories are well tolerated and represent a distinct advance in rectal alimentation. Both crystallized egg albumin and dextrin are readily obtainable from dealers in chemical supplies.

SUTURE OF THE FEMORAL ARTERY.—*The Medical Record*, quoting from a German contemporary, says: Sonnenburg reports the case of a man in whom the anterior femoral artery was cut almost completely across by a splinter of steel. The diagnosis was difficult, but as the hematoma increased in size an incision was made. The torn ends of the artery were approximated and sutured by the circular method of Carrel.

The results were perfect; pulsation returned to the foot; the leg, which was cold, became warm, and the limb was saved.

EVIL EFFECTS OF SOOTHING SYRUP.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* reports the death of a child, ten months old, from the administration of one teaspoonful of Mrs. Winslow's soothing syrup. Stimulation by atropine, strychnia, and alcohol was tried, but without avail.

CURRENT LITERATURE OF INTEREST TO NURSES

Medical Record, May 14, "The Cause and Prevention of Typhoid Fever," Editorial; May 21, "Hygienic Principles of Ventilation," W. A. Evans, M.D.; May 28, "Therapeutic Possibilities of the Juice of the Fresh Pineapple," B. G. R. Williams, M.D. *N. Y. Medical Journal*, May 7, "Norway for Neurasthenia," Charles E. Namenack, M.D.; May 14, "Diet in Pulmonary Tuberculosis," Charles Bayersley, M.D.; May 21, "Sterility in the Female," Charles Gardner Child, Jr., M.D.; May 28, "Comets and Plagues," John Knott, M.D. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, May 14, "Ergot," "Being Supplanted," Editorial. May 21, "The Soy Bean as an Article of Diet for Infants," John Ruhräh, M.D.; June 4, "Some Public Health Problems," G. Milton Linthicum, M.D., "A Water Curtain for Cooling Rooms," William J. Manning, M.D.; June 11, "Methods for Extending Popular Education in Public Health and Preventive Medicine," Seneca Egbert, M.D., "Institutional Treatment of Nervous and Mental Diseases," Theodore Diller, M.D., "Ulcers of the Leg." *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, May 5, "Need of Instruction and Experience in Nursing as Part of Medical Education," F. P. Denny. *The Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, June, "Is the Use of Hot Water Bottles Advisable in the Treatment of the Collapse of Cholera and Shock?" Seward Rogers, M.D. *The Survey*, May 14, "Hospital Social Work," Garnet Isabel Pelton, "National Tuberculosis Association Meeting," Philip P. Jacobs; May 28, "New York City's Dental Hygiene Conference and Exhibit," Mabel Rae; June 4, "Nursing Conventions and Nightingale Anniversary," "Florence Nightingale a Sanitary Statesman," "Decencies which a Laborer's Wage Denies," Frederick Almy.